



Tom Barrett
Mayor

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Commissioner of Health

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For Immediate Release:
February 13, 2006

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City's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Receives \$50,000 from the Helen Bader Foundation

Grant will fund abatement of 26 Milwaukee inner-city housing units

The City of Milwaukee Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recently received a \$50,000 one-year grant from the Helen Bader Foundation for lead abatement of 26 housing units located in the Milwaukee Health Department Lead Program's target area. This grant represents the first award in Mayor Barrett's strategic \$7 million fundraising campaign to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in Milwaukee by 2010.

"We are very grateful to the Helen Bader Foundation for their generous support in our efforts to eradicate childhood lead poisoning. We are hopeful that other philanthropic organizations and corporations will follow suit," said Mayor Tom Barrett.

Lead is a poison that affects every system in the body. It is particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of young children. Lead poisoning has been linked to learning disabilities, behavior problems, I.Q. deficits, hyperactivity, hearing and speech impediments, and aggressive and delinquent behavior. The major source of lead exposure is the dust created by deteriorated lead-based paint, which often is a result of deferred housing maintenance.

"Safeguarding the health of Milwaukee is our top priority, and that includes our most vulnerable population—our children," said Bevan K. Baker, Commissioner of Health. "Lead poisoning is a preventable disease and these funds will help us meet our 2010 goal."

The City of Milwaukee Health Department is seeking private contributions to augment grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which has already provided substantial funding for this initiative. HUD and other grantors have seen the positive impact that Milwaukee's Lead Program has already had on Milwaukee's children, as well as housing and economic development.

The future of our city depends upon the well-being of our children, and addressing the threat of lead poisoning is one way we can directly help them reach their potential," said Foundation President Daniel Bader. "The Foundation strongly supports the Health Department's efforts, and we encourage others to join us."

The Helen Bader Foundation supports innovative projects and programs that advance the well-being of people and promote successful relationships with their families and communities. With offices in Milwaukee and Jerusalem, the Foundation awards an average of \$12 million per year in grants, totaling more than \$142 million in grants since 1992.

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